

So is our world seeing these ideas for the first time? No, it is the reappearance of ancient pagan traditions—the same kind that Paul fought against. The emerging church is merely a conduit for it. In our own setting we saw it first in the Alpha apostasy. Don't be fooled by those who claim to have this new light on spiritual awareness. It is merely gray-haired paganism, and it is being welcomed into our church by progressive individuals who claim that it will make us closer to God. What was previously esoteric (covered up) is now becoming quite public.

The emergent church affirms the work of **Diana Butler Bass** who defines God in terms of praying to God our mother—the nourishing spirit of mother earth—as the future of Christianity. She is endorsed by a large number of emergent church leaders, including Leonard Sweet, Brian McLaren, and Shane Claiborne. For Bass her “religionless Christianity” is the elimination of doctrine, of authority structures and inhibiting moral codes, and most of all, the elimination of a propositional, inerrant Bible.” She hails a movement borne along on the breath of an undefined “Spirit” into an age of pure inner experience. No wonder that the SOP says of the coming Omega heresy “I trembled for our people.”

Such views empty the everlasting Gospel of all biblical meaning. As Bass puts it, “Salvation is not...escaping some dreadful fate of judgment at the hands of a wrathful God; rather, it is being saved *to* ourselves.” She leaves no place for the cross or the atonement. “The “Spirit” now at work since the Sixties is “a romantic spirit...[with] an ethic of self-realization.” Such moral-ism is salvation by works for the creation of “**a global common good.**” This “Awakening is actually something we can do”—delivering people from the “fear of women, Islam, pluralism, environmentalism, and homosexuality.” Wow. For Brian McLaren, Bass's prophetic voice is “provocative, inspiring...a sage guidance for the future.”

How many “believers” will find their way into the deadly arms of this Gospel-less Christianity? How many of our theologically-starved rising generation of young people, under the enormous influence of leaders who love an emergent lie, will be lost to the only Faith that can save them?